United Nations A/62/877

General Assembly

Distr.: General
16 June 2008

Original: English

Sixty-second session
Agenda item 153 (a)

Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East: United Nations Disengagement Observer Force

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Steven Ssenabulya **Nkayivu** (Uganda)

I. Introduction

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 21 September 2007, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-second session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East: United Nations Disengagement Observer Force" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 40th and 51st meetings, on 12 May and 13 June 2008. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/62/SR.40 and 51).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the financial performance report of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 (A/62/562);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the budget for the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 (A/62/719 and Corr.1);

(c) Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/62/781/Add.7 and Corr.1).

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II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.46

4. At its 51st meeting, on 13 June, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force" (A/C.5/62/L.46), submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of Sweden.

5. Before the consideration of the draft resolution, the Secretary of the Committee orally corrected the draft resolution as follows:

(a) In operative paragraph 1, after the date "30 June 2006", the word "and" was added and the phrase "and 62/___" was deleted;

(b) In operative paragraph 11, after "60/266", the word "and" was added and the phrase "and 62/___" was deleted.

6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.46, as orally corrected, without a vote (see para. 7).

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

7. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financing of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

Recalling Security Council resolution 350 (1974) of 31 May 1974 regarding the establishment of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Force, the latest of which was resolution 1788 (2007) of 14 December 2007,

Recalling also its resolution 3211 B (XXIX) of 29 November 1974 on the financing of the United Nations Emergency Force and of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 61/287 of 29 June 2007,

Reaffirming the general principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, as stated in General Assembly resolutions 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101 (XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 and 55/235 of 23 December 2000,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Force with the financial resources necessary to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to entrust the Head of Mission with the task of formulating future budget proposals in full accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 59/296 of 22 June 2005, 60/266 of 30 June 2006 and 61/276 of 29 June 2007, as well as other relevant resolutions;

2. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force as at 31 March 2008, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 15.0 million United States dollars, representing some 1 per cent of the total assessed contributions, notes with concern that only forty-nine Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States, in particular those in arrears, to ensure the payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Force in full;

4. *Expresses concern* at the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursements to troop contributors that bear

[1] A/62/562, A/62/719 and Corr.1.

[2] A/62/781/Add.7 and Corr.1.

additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

5. *Also expresses concern* at the delay experienced by the Secretary-General in deploying and providing adequate resources to some recent peacekeeping missions, in particular those in Africa;

6. *Emphasizes* that all future and existing peacekeeping missions shall be given equal and non-discriminatory treatment in respect of financial and administrative arrangements;

7. *Also emphasizes* that all peacekeeping missions shall be provided with adequate resources for the effective and efficient discharge of their respective mandates;

8. *Reiterates* its request to the Secretary-General to make the fullest possible use of facilities and equipment at the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, in order to minimize the costs of procurement for the Force;

9. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, [2] subject to the provisions of the present resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

10. *Takes note* of paragraph 30 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[2]

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of the relevant provisions of its resolutions 59/296, 60/266 and 61/276;

12. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Force is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

13. *Further requests* the Secretary-General, in order to reduce the cost of employing General Service staff, to continue efforts to recruit local staff for the Force against General Service posts, commensurate with the requirements of the Force;

Financial performance report for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007

14. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the financial performance of the Force for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007;[3]

Budget estimates for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009

15. *Decides* to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force the amount of 47,859,100 dollars for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009, inclusive of 45,726,000 dollars for the maintenance of the Force, 1,859,500 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations and 273,600 dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base;

[3] A/62/562.

Financing of the appropriation

16. *Also decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 47,859,100 dollars at a monthly rate of 3,988,258 dollars, in accordance with the levels updated in General Assembly resolution 61/243 of 22 December 2006, and taking into account the scale of assessments for 2008 and 2009, as set out in its resolution 61/237 of 22 December 2006, subject to a decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Force;

17. *Further decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 16 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 1,448,000 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 1,247,700 dollars approved for the Force for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009, the prorated share of 178,700 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account and the prorated share of 21,600 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

18. *Decides* that, for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Force, there shall be set off against their apportionment, as provided for in paragraph 16 above, their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the total amount of 2,728,700 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2007, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 61/243, and taking into account the scale of assessments for 2007, as set out in its resolution 61/237;

19. *Also decides* that, for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Force, there shall be set off against their outstanding obligations their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the total amount of 2,728,700 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2007, in accordance with the scheme set out in paragraph 18 above;

20. *Further decides* that the increase of 72,600 dollars in the estimated staff assessment income in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2007 shall be added to the credits from the amount of 2,728,700 dollars referred to in paragraphs 18 and 19 above;

21. *Emphasizes* that no peacekeeping mission shall be financed by borrowing funds from other active peacekeeping missions;

22. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to take additional measures to ensure the safety and security of all personnel participating in the Force under the auspices of the United Nations, bearing in mind paragraphs 5 and 6 of Security Council resolution 1502 (2003) of 26 August 2003;

23. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Force in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

24. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-third session, under the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East", the sub-item entitled "United Nations Disengagement Observer Force".